

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 11-37 without prejudice. Please add new claims 38-57 as shown below in the List of claims.

List of Claims

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A process for producing an L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of: L-asparagine; L-serine; L-glutamate; L-glycine; L-homoserine; L-alanine; L-cysteine; L-valine; L-methionine; L-isoleucine; L-leucine; L-threonine; L-tyrosine; L-phenylalanine; L-histidine; L-lysine; L-tryptophan; and L-arginine comprising:

- a) culturing an enterobacterium of the genus *Escherichia* in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing said L-amino acid; and
- b) isolating said L-amino acid;

wherein the *yjgF* open reading frame of said enterobacterium has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and has undergone a modification by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of: deletion of all or part of the *yjgF* open reading frame; insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination in the *yjgF* open reading frame; and transitional or transversional mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *yjgF* open reading frame, wherein said modification results in an increased production of L-amino acid by said enterobacterium relative to the amount of amino acid produced in said enterobacterium prior to said mutagenesis; and

wherein said *yjgF* open reading frame encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

39. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said L-amino-acid is selected from the group consisting of: L-threonine; L-lysine; L-valine; L-methionine; and L-homoserine.

40. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

41. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said enterobacterium is of the species *Escherichia coli*.
42. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein the expression of the *yjgF* open reading frame has been eliminated by the deletion of part of the *yjgF* open reading frame.
43. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said L-amino acid is isolated from said enterobacterium.
44. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said L-amino acid is isolated from said medium.
45. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein culturing is performed using a batch process.
46. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein culturing is performed using a fed batch process.
47. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein culturing is performed using a repeated fed batch process.
48. (New) A process for producing an L-amino acid, comprising:
 - a) culturing an enterobacterium of the genus *Escherichia* in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing said L-amino acid; and
 - b) either recovering said L-amino acid and determining the amount of said L-amino acid recovered or isolating said L-amino acid;wherein the expression of the *yjgF* open reading frame of said enterobacterium has been eliminated by deletion of all of the *yjgF* open reading frame; and wherein said *yjgF* open reading frame encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.
49. (New) The process of claim 48, wherein said *yjgF* open reading frame has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

50. (New) The process of claim 48, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of: L-asparagine; L-serine; L-glutamate; L-glycine; L-alanine; L-cysteine; L-valine; L-methionine; L-isoleucine; L-leucine; L-tyrosine; L-phenylalanine; L-histidine; L-lysine; L-tryptophan; and L-arginine.
51. (New) The process of claim 48, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.
52. (New) The process of claim 48, wherein:
- said *yjgF* open reading frame has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - said L-amino acid is L-threonine; and
 - said enterobacterium is of the species *E. coli*.
53. (New) The process of claim 48, wherein said L-amino acid is L-homoserine.
54. (New) The process of claim 48, wherein said L-amino acid is L-homoserine.
55. (New) A process for producing an L-amino acid comprising:
- fermenting an enterobacterium of the genus *Escherichia* in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing said L-amino acid; and
 - recovering said L-amino acid and determining the amount recovered;
- wherein the *yjgF* open reading frame of said enterobacterium has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and has undergone a modification by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of: deletion of all or part of the *yjgF* open reading frame; insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination in the *yjgF* open reading frame; and transitional or transversional mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *yjgF* open reading frame, wherein said modification results in an increased production of L-amino acid by said enterobacterium relative to the amount of amino acid produced in said enterobacterium prior to said mutagenesis; and
- wherein said *yjgF* open reading frame encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

56. (New) The process of claim 55, wherein constituents of the fermentation broth and/or the biomass in its entirety or portions thereof remain with the recovered L-amino acid of step b).
57. (New) The process of claim 55, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.